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To: Greg Sanders <greg_sanders@r1.fws.gov>
cc:
Subject: Supplemental EIS

The Washington State translocation was successful, and as Greg Sanders said, at the Technical Consultants meeting on 26 September 00, so were the translocations to British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. If reasons for the low numbers at San Nicholas Is. can be found, such as possible drowning in crab or lobster traps or in nets and these deaths can be prevented, then perhaps the population at the Island could grow.

We agree with the following statements:

"Range expansion of sea otter in California will occur more rapidly if the existing population is allowed to passively recover without translocating otters."

"The prospect of capturing and moving large groups of otters has raised concerns for the welfare of the sea otter population."

"A recent biological opinion prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service found that containment of otters will likely jeopardize the species continued existence."

"Reversal of the southern sea otter's population decline is essential to its survival and recovery. Containment activities may result in the deaths of individuals and disrupt social behavior in the parent population exacerbating the recent decline in the population."

"Expansion of the southern sea otter's distribution is essential to its survival and recovery."